Judicial Officer other than the agreement of the parties shall be subject to objection and exception.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

## § 957.20 Proposed findings and conclusions.

(a) Each party to a proceeding, except one who fails to appear at the hearing may, unless at the discretion of the Judicial Officer such is not appropriate, submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and supporting reasons either in oral or written form in the discretion of the Judicial Officer. The Judicial Officer may also require parties to any proceeding to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law with supporting reasons. Unless given orally the date set for filing of proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law shall be within 15 days after the delivery of the official transcript to the Recorder who shall notify both parties of the date of its receipt. The filing date for proposed findings shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by such date, or unless extension of time for the filing thereof is granted, they will not be included in the record or given consideration.

(b) Except when presented orally before the close of the hearing, proposed findings of fact shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed findings. Each proposed conclusion shall be separately stated.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

## § 957.21 Decision.

The Judicial Officer shall issue a final agency decision. Such decision shall include findings and conclusions, with the reasons therefor, upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and the appropriate order.

## §957.22 Motion for reconsideration.

Within 10 days from the date thereof, or such longer period as may be fixed

by the Judicial Officer, either party may file a motion for reconsideration of the final agency decision. Each motion for reconsideration shall be accompanied by a brief clearly setting forth the points of fact and of law relied upon in support of said motion.

# §957.23 Modification or revocation of orders.

A party against whom an order of debarment has been issued may file an application for modification or revocation thereof. The Recorder shall transmit a copy of the application to the General Counsel, who shall file a written reply. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Recorder. Thereafter an order granting or denying such application will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

### § 957.24 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under the rules in this part excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in shich event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

#### § 957.25 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding shall constitute the official record of the proceeding.

## § 957.26 Public information.

The Librarian of the Postal Service shall maintain for public inspection in the Library copies of all final decisions. The Recorder maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

## §957.27 Suspension.

(a) Any firm or individual suspended under chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual who believes that the suspension has not been in accordance with the provisions

#### § 957.28

thereof, or with applicable laws or regulations, may appeal to the Judicial Officer for a review of the suspension.

- (b) Any such appeal shall be addressed to the Judicial Officer through the Vice President who ordered the suspension within 20 days of the date upon which the respondent has been notified of the suspension. Such appeal shall concisely and in the manner of a pleading set forth the grounds upon which the suspension is contested and may be supported by a brief and such evidence as the respondent may desire to submit.
- (c) Should the respondent desire oral argument or a hearing before the Judicial Officer in connection with the appeal, application therefor shall be included in the appeal. In the event that the Judicial Officer grants the respondent's application for a hearing the notice of suspension and the appeal shall constitute the pleadings defining the issues therein and the hearing shall be regulated in accordance with the rules in this part concerning debarment proceedings.
- (d) The decision of the Judicial Officer in any appeal shall constitute the final agency determination of the issues presented thereby. Either party thereto may, however, file a motion for reconsideration thereof, in accordance with the provisions of §957.22.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976; 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

#### § 957.28 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

[42 FR 5358, Jan. 28, 1977]

PART 958—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE REFUSAL TO PROVIDE POST OFFICE BOX OR CALLER SERVICE AND THE TERMINATION OF POST OFFICE BOX OR CALLER SERVICE

Sec.

958.1 Authority for rules.

958.2 Scope of rules.

958.3 Petition; notice of hearing; answer; summary judgment.

958.4 Hearings.

958.5 Election as to hearing.

958.6 Default.

958.7 Presiding officers.

958.8 Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

958.9 Initial decision.

958.10 Appeal.

958.11 Final agency decision.

958.12 Compromise and informal disposition.

958.13 Petition to revoke, amend, or modify.958.14 Ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11578, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 958.1 Authority for rules.

The Judicial Officer promulgates the rules in this part pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

#### § 958.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part shall be applicable to cases in which a postmaster has issued a Determination denying an application for post office box or caller service, or terminating the box or caller service being provided to a customer, and in which a Petition in opposition to that Determination has been filed.

[46 FR 62847, Dec. 29, 1981]

## §958.3 Petition; notice of hearing; answer; summary judgment.

(a) Petition. Any applicant or customer who receives a postmaster's Determination may oppose it by filing, in triplicate, a written Petition stating his reasons for opposing the Determination. The Petition, signed by the Petitioner or his attorney, shall be filed by sending the Petition via certified mail to the postmaster who issued the Determination, or by otherwise delivering it to the postmaster's office. The Petition must be filed within twenty days (Sundays and holidays included) after the date on which the Petitioner received the Determination. The postmaster shall immediately forward two copies of the Petition to the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201-3078.